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## **SCHAKOWSKY JOINS ICIRR AND ADVOCATES TO CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORMS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today joined the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and others to call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reforms.**

**During a news conference on Capitol Hill, Schakowsky said that Congress must act on legislation that would allow long time residents to seek legal immigration status, to restore fairness to immigration laws by providing equal relief for all Central Americans and Haitian refugees, and to restore Section 245 (I) to ease the process for those applying for permanent residency. In addition, Schakowsky expressed her strong support for the creation of a new amnesty program to allow undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S. to seek legal status.**

**Below is Schakowsky's statement:**

***"Throughout the history of this country, immigrants have played an important role in building our nation and its democratic institutions. New arrivals from every continent have contributed their energy, talent, and commitment to making the United States richer and stronger. Newly arriving workers continue to make indispensable contributions to the strength and growth of our economy. And I represent many of those hard working immigrants. My district is wonderfully diverse and serves as a gateway to America for immigrants from all parts of the globe.***

***"On any given day, there are over 5 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. These are vulnerable individuals who are constantly living in fear. Fear of being deported by the INS, fear for their family's economic security, fear of being exploited by their employers, and fear of knowing that they have no legal recourse.***

***"Two weeks ago in Los Angeles, close to 20,000 people rallied in support of immigrant rights. This was yet another example of the changing tide and the need to address our failed immigration policies.***

***"It is important that we strengthen our immigration policies to support immigrants who continue to make indispensable contributions to the strength and growth of our economy and I look forward to working with all of you to make this vision a reality."***